

WAR WITHIN :  
**DARK AGES**

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#





**DW**  
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Furman  
Wildman

# TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES





CYBERTRON, ORBITAL  
TORUS STATE: PROTIHEX...

BUGLY,  
MINDWIPE--

--YOU ARE HEREBY  
HELD ACCOUNTABLE  
FOR CRIMES AGAINST  
THIS PLANET!

VAARK!

## THE DARK AGES

Writer	SIMON FURMAN
Pencils	ANDREW WILDMAN
Inks	ERIK SANDER
Additional Inks	ROB ARMSTRONG
Colors	ALLAN WANG
Letters	BEN LEE



WHERE IS  
THE OTHER ONE?  
BLUDGEON?

IF THERE  
IS, AMONG YOU, AN INTELLECT  
WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION,  
I SUSPECT IT IS HIS.

OH, I'M  
RIGHT HERE,  
SHOCKWAVE...

...ABOUT THREE  
COUNTER-MOVES AHEAD  
OF YOUR CLUMSY, ILL-  
CONCEIVED ATTACK.

BUT HEY,  
THANKS FOR THE  
FAINT PRAISE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW  
YOU SURVIVED OUR LAST  
ENCOUNTER, LET ALONE  
TRACKED US HERE...

...BUT YOU  
SHOULD NEVER HAVE  
COME ALONE!

UHH...  
ALONE?

THAT  
WOULD BE  
ILLOGICAL.

"CYBERTRON BURNS,  
YOUR CREATIONS THRASH  
BLINDLY AND WILDLY..."



BELOW:

...IN A CHURNING  
CAULDRON OF  
CONFLICT.

THIS IS MY  
MASTER'S *DESIGN*, ETCHED  
BY ME ON YOUR WORLDSKIN.  
A CHAOTIC STIGMATA...

THE WELL OF  
ALL SPARKS.

...TO MARK  
HIS *SECOND*  
COMING!

DID YOU BELIEVE US  
GONE *FOREVER*, THAT THE  
FRINGES OF INFINITY WERE *FAR*  
ENOUGH, ETERNITY *LONG*  
ENOUGH? NO...

...YOU  
*KNEW*. AND SO  
YOU *HID*.

"HERE.  
WITHIN."



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE  
LET THEM *DABBLE*, YOUR  
CREATIONS. THEIR FUMBLING  
ATTEMPTS TO PENETRATE  
*UNDERSPACE* UNLOCKED  
MY PRISON.

AND SOON...YOUR  
*INNER FIRE* WILL LIGHT  
THE CHAOS BRINGER'S  
WAY BACK!

NO.

NO.

WHAT HE ON  
ABOUT DOWN  
THERE?

G-GRIMLOCK.  
HOW LONG..?

NEVER MIND. LOOK,  
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING  
HERE IS *BEYOND* EVEN ME.  
THEORETICAL, METAPHYSICAL  
STUFF I'M...JUST *NOT* QUITE  
READY TO ACCEPT.

BUT SOMETHING'S  
*STARTED*. SOMETHING  
ANCIENT AND *PRIMAL*.

AND WE'RE AT  
*UNDERGROUND  
ZERO*!



ABOVE...

DEFEND THE  
ACCESS SHAFT. NO  
ONE GETS THROUGH.

WHATEVER *THE  
FALLEN* IS DOING, HE'S  
DOING IT *NOW*. ONE WAY  
OR ANOTHER...

...THIS  
WILL SOON BE  
OVER.

AND WE  
WILL HAVE OUR  
REWARD!

HEY,  
PROWL...

...YOU  
GETTING  
THIS?



AUTOBASE.

YEAH, SWOOP.  
BUT WHAT *EXACTLY*  
AM I GETTING...

...AND WHAT'S IT  
GOT TO DO WITH  
GRIMLOCK AND  
JETFIRE?



MAYBE NOTHING,  
BUT WHILE WE DREW A  
BIG, FAT *BLANK* TRYING  
TO TRACK OUR A.W.O.L  
COMMANDER AND YOUR  
SCIENCE OFFICER...



...HERE'S  
SHOCKWAVE, LARGE  
AS LIFE AND TWICE  
AS UGLY.

OKAAY, SHOCKWAVE  
LINKS THE TWO, I *SEE* THAT.  
JETFIRE WENT TO *MEET* HIM IN  
SECRET, GRIMLOCK WENT TO  
*EXECUTE* THEM BOTH.

BUT WHERE ARE *THEY*?  
AND WHY'S SHOCKWAVE  
ATTACKING NOWHERE-IN-  
PARTICULAR, ALTIHAX?



AH, WELL,  
THAT'S JUST IT. THIS  
BIT OF 'NOTHING'...







...SEEMS TO  
HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF  
SOMETHING GOING  
ON UNDERNEATH.



BUMBLEBEE?

YEAH, YEAH, I SEE IT.  
NOT ANY KIND OF POWER  
OUTAGE I RECOGNIZE. EJT  
IT'S *DEEP, CORE DEEP*.  
WHATEVER'S BEEN *TAPPED*  
DOWN THERE...

...IT'S  
REGISTERING *OFF*  
THE SCALE!



OKAY, SWOOP, I'M  
SENDING IN BACK-UP  
UNITS...WHETHER THE  
DECEPTICONS LIKE  
IT OR NOT.

YOUR?



OH, YOU  
KNOW...*MAXIMUM*  
*FORCE*, ALL GUNS  
BLAZING.

SAME  
OLD, SAME  
OLD.






AND SO  
IT BEGINS, THE  
UNBINDING...


THE ENERGY OF  
FOUR *UNIQUE* SPARKS, EACH  
LOADED WITH GENETIC POTENTIAL.  
TOGETHER, THEY FORM THE  
*ANGLES OF DISSOLUTION.*



THE  
KEY...



...THAT WILL  
UNLOCK THE SEAL  
OF PRIMUS.



"THIS THING...IS  
LEECHING POWER DIRECTLY  
FROM OUR *SPARK CORES*."

"SO?"



SO...DON'T WASTE  
MORE ENERGY TRYING  
TO BREAK FREE YOU  
CAN'T

INSTEAD, FOCUS  
ON RE-ROUTING POWER FROM  
LIFE SUPPORT TO YOUR INTERNAL  
DAMPERS. MAYBE WE CAN BLOCK--  
OR AT LEAST STEM--THE  
FLOW I THINK

YOU THINK TOO  
MUCH! PRIMAL FORCES--  
MY TAILPIPE! ONLY THING  
ME BELIEVE IN.

IS--NNNN--  
BRUTE FORCE!

RIGHT

LOOK, GRIMLOCK YOU  
DON'T LIKE ME, FINE I  
EVEN UNDERSTAND WE BOTH  
STOOD THE *WRONG* SIDE OF  
THE LINE, SAW THE LURE OR  
LOGIC OF THE DECEPTION  
EXPANSION ST IDEAL

I REMIND YOU  
OF WHO AND *WHAT*  
YOU ALMOST WERE

AND THEN THERE'S  
THAT *INCIDENT*, WITH THE  
*CEREBRO* SHELL AND, WELL  
THE LESS SAID ABOUT  
THAT THE BETTER

BUT HERE,  
NOW, WE HAVE  
TO--

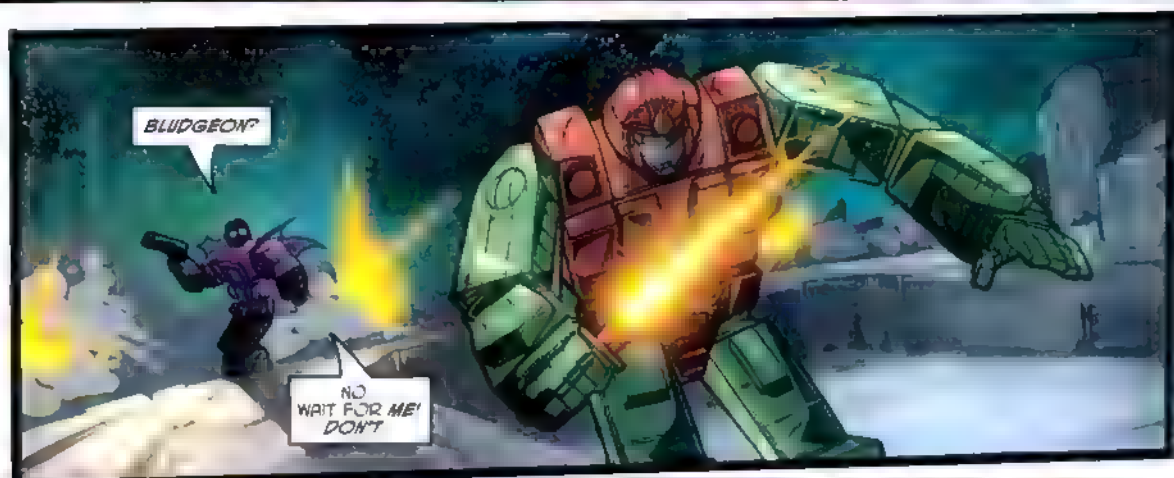
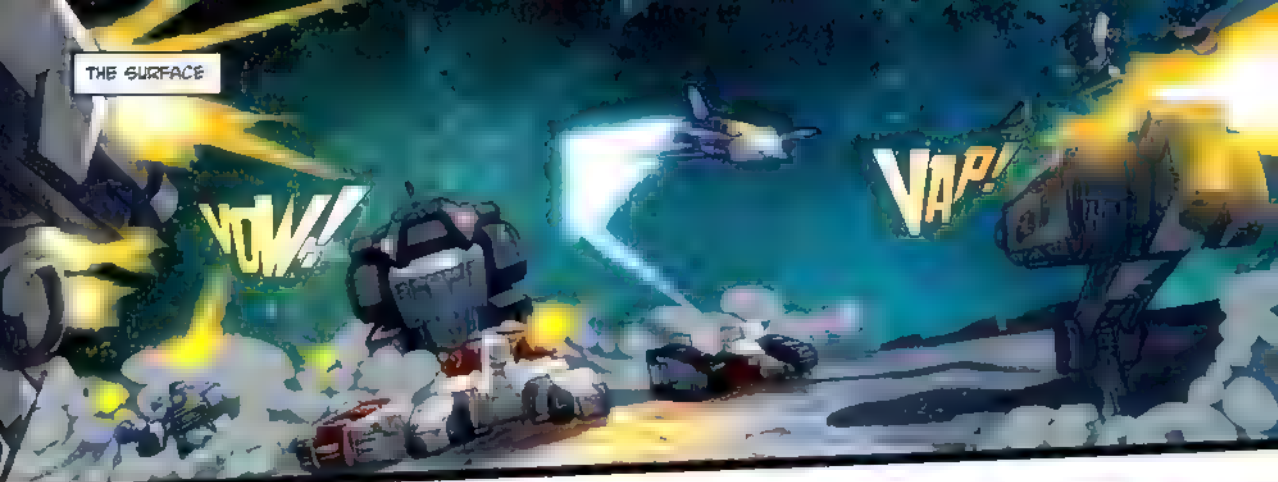
OH, SORRY  
MISSED THAT

ON ACCOUNT OF  
WHOLE *BREAKING  
FREE* THING!

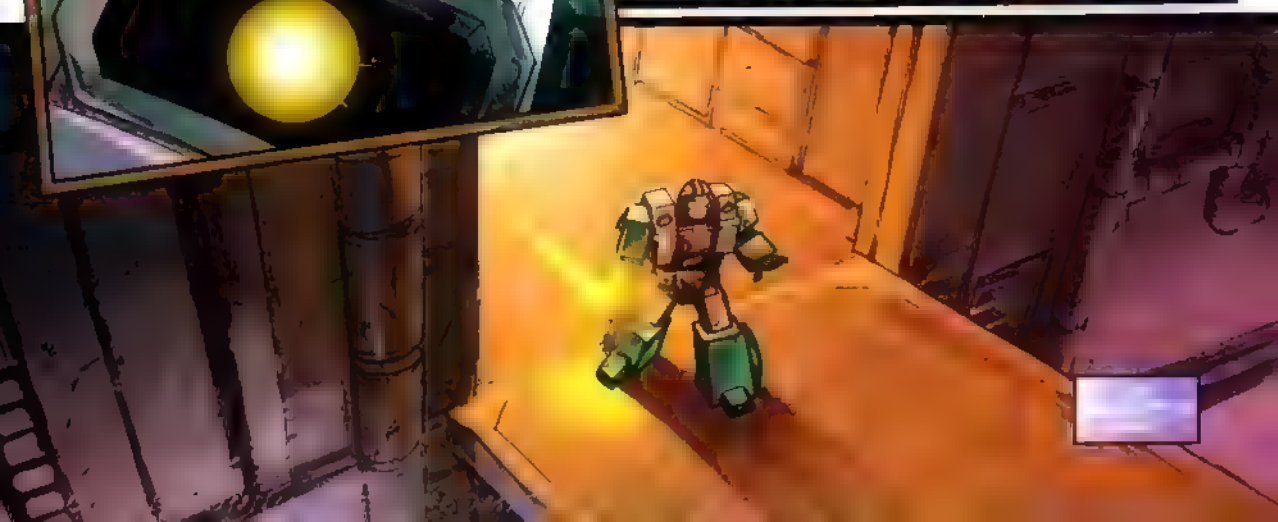
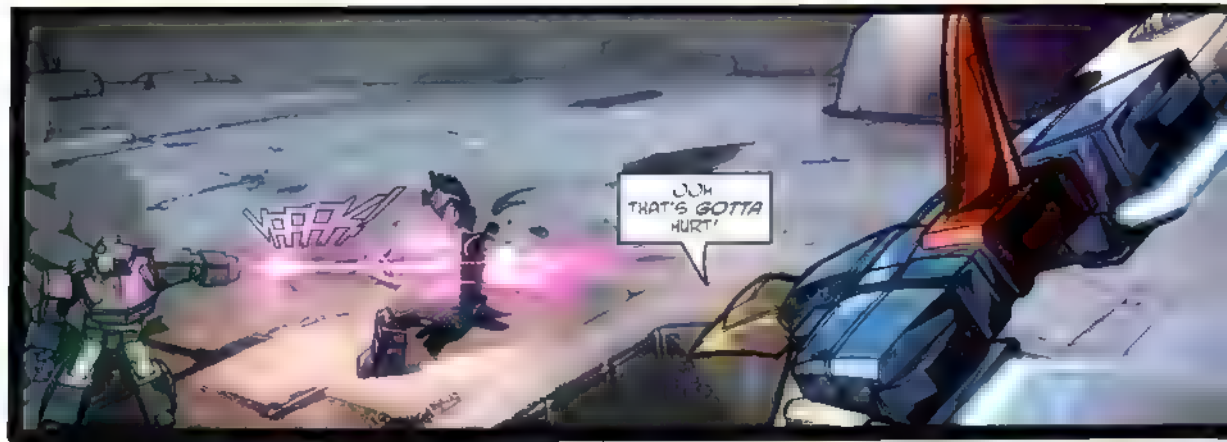
WOTK!



THE SURFACE













BELOW:

IT PAYBACK  
TIME! BIG TIME!

BOOM!

POW!

GRIMLOCK!

LISTEN TO ME! THAT  
THING, WE CAN'T STOP IT.  
IT'S... TOO BIG! WHATEVER  
HAPPEN NG DOING DOWN  
THERE DEFIES BRAIN...  
AND BRAIN



JUST THIS ONE  
TIME TRUST ME WE  
CAN'T FIGHT THIS...

.. BUT I THINK I  
MIGHT BE ABLE TO  
CONTAIN IT!

GRIMLOCK

...PLEASE



OUTSIDE...

WE'RE  
CLOSE

YES

BEYOND THE  
BARRIER

THE MARKINGS  
ARE NOT ON ANY  
KNOWN DATABASE

IF I HAD TO  
GUESS, I'D SAY, "DO  
NOT DISTURB"

YH  
TRYPTICON

BAW

TOO  
LATE










NOW...



NOW WHAT? WHAT'S DOWN THERE? AND WHY DO I FEEL WITH SUCH UTTER CERTAINTY...

WE SHOULDN'T KNOW NOT YET

AU-AUTOBASE...DO YOU READ ME? THIS IS JET-FIRE, PRIORITY CODE ALPHA-ALPHA-ONE

PROWL? JAZZ?



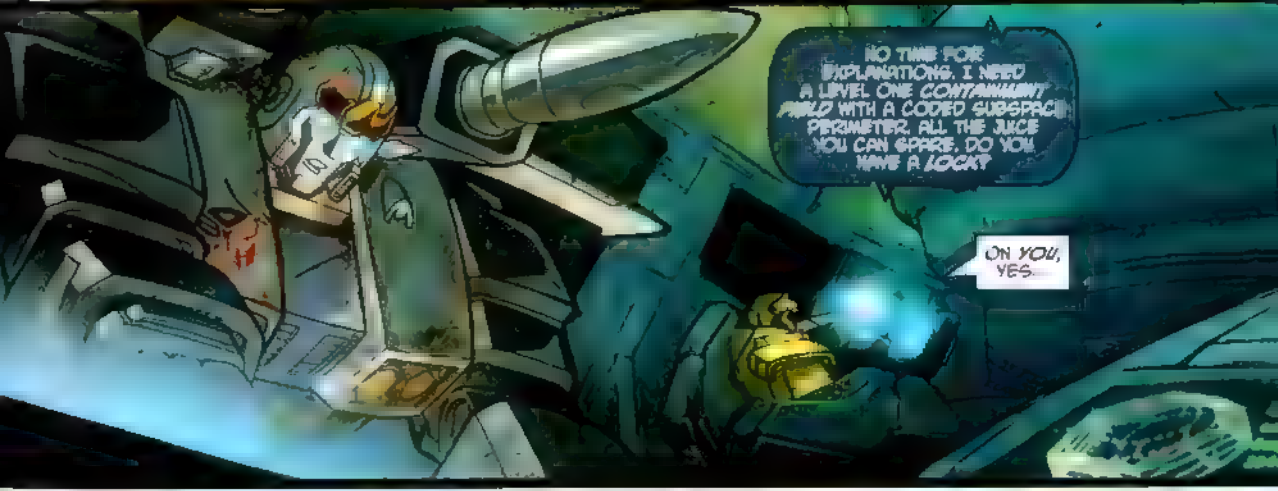
PROWK!



ANYONE?

"VNT" JET-FIRE...WE HEAR YOU STATUS?


AS BAD AS IT GETS, PROWL...AS BAD AS IT GETS



NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS. I NEED A LEVEL ONE CONTAMINANT FIELD WITH A CODED SUBSPACE PERIMETER. ALL THE JUICE YOU CAN SPARE. DO YOU HAVE A LOCK?

ON YOU, YES.





...BUT THE IMMEDIATE  
AREA IS IN AN *EXTREME*  
STATE OF DIMENSIONAL  
*FLUX*. I ONLY HAVE A VERY  
LIMITED FIELD RANGE

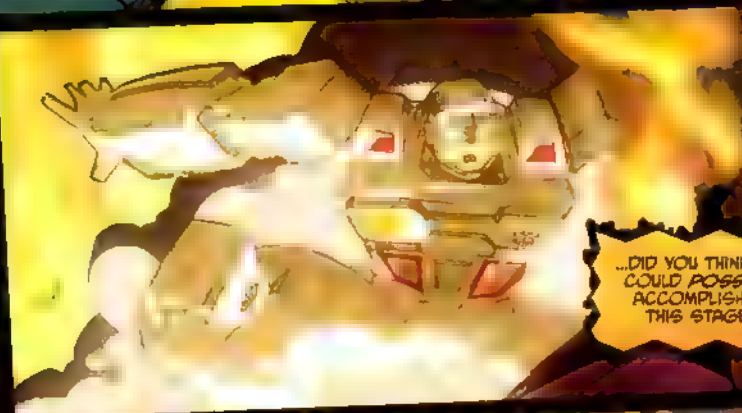
THAT'LL *HAVE* TO  
DO. JUST KEEP THIS  
CHANNEL OPEN...



AND  
ACTIVATE ON  
MY SIGNAL



AND  
WHAT, PRAY  
TELL...



...DID YOU THINK YOU  
COULD POSSIBLY  
ACCOMPLISH AT  
THIS STAGE?



THIS.

NOW,  
BUMBLEBEE...

**NOW!**



CONTAINMENT  
FIELD...



"...ESTABLISHED!"

WHAT?

AH AS I HAVE  
DEMONSTRATED ONCE  
ALREADY, THIS FRAGILE  
BARRIER CAN NOT HOLD  
ME FOR LONG.

IT'S  
NOT MEANT  
TO

AH.

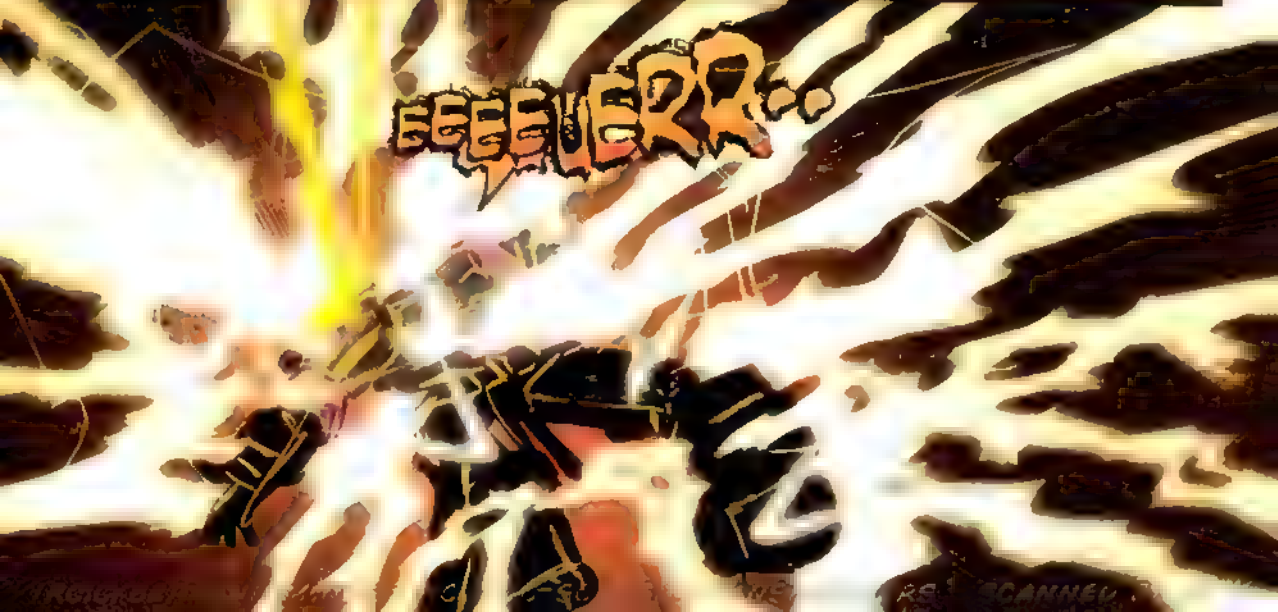
CLEVER  
INSECT.

YOU SEEK TO  
CONTAIN THE FORCE  
I HAVE UNLEASHED YOU  
SENSE MY CHAOTIC INTENT...  
BUT DO NOT FULLY  
UNDERSTAND.

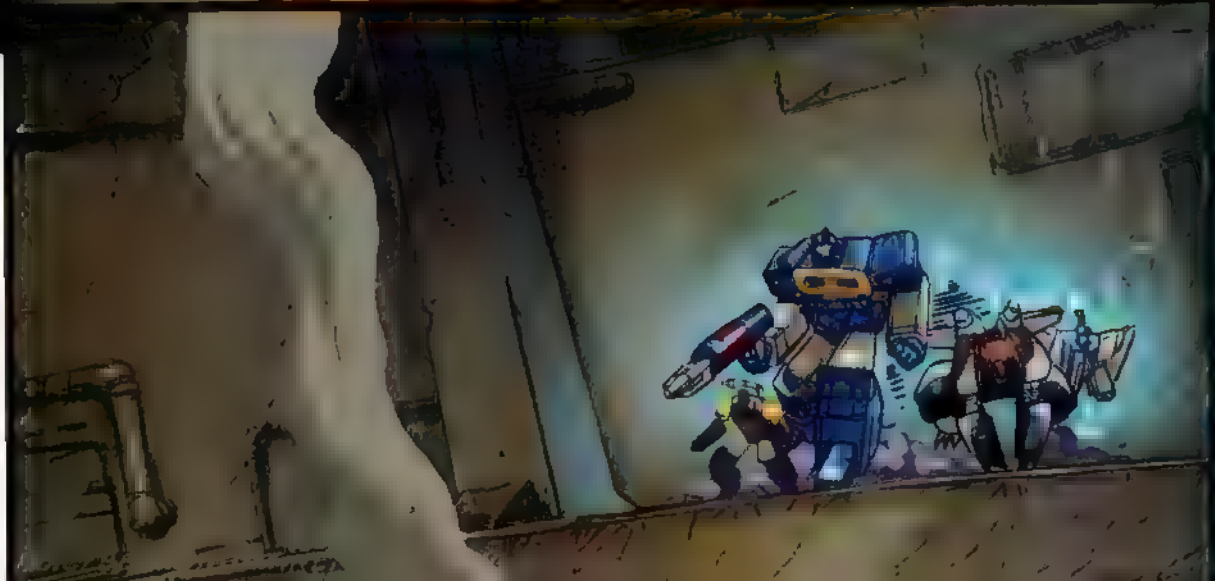
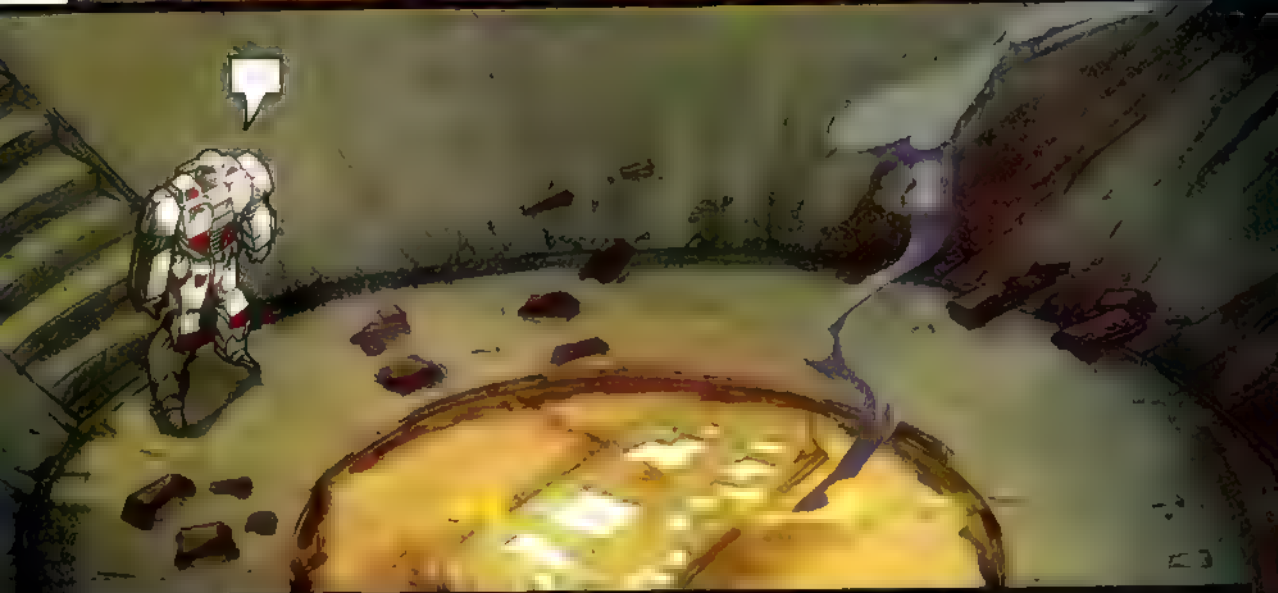
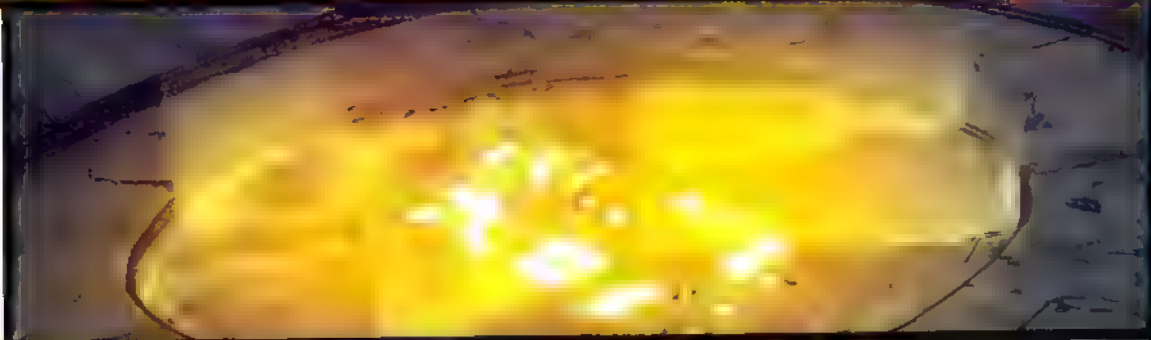
HOW  
COULD--

--YOUR!













LATER...

THEN IT'S  
AGREED

YES WE SEAL  
THE CHAMBER. ERECT  
CODED NON-DUAL ENERGY  
BARRIERS, ONE PER  
FACTION

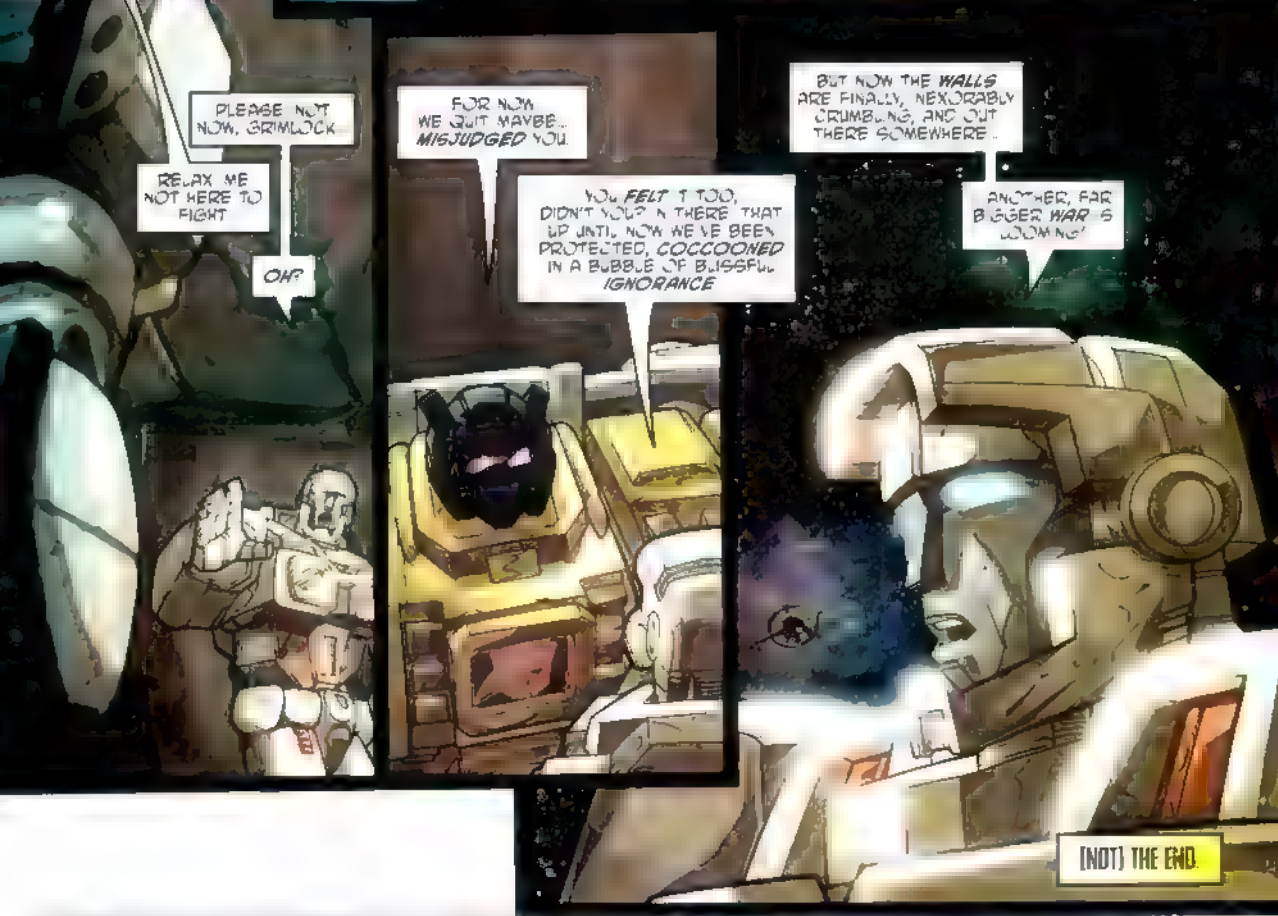
WHATEVER'S IN  
THERE STAYS BURIED  
UNTIL LATE



...ALL ARE  
ONE?

CATCHY YEAH,  
SOMETHING LIKE  
THAT

I WONDER IF WE'LL  
EVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT  
WENT DOWN IN THERE. JET-FIRE  
CLAIMS HE WAS BLINDED,  
NEVER SAW A THING BUT



PLEASE NOT  
NOW, GRIMLOCK

RELAX ME  
NOT HERE TO  
FIGHT

OH?

FOR NOW  
WE QUIT MAYBE...  
MISJUDGED YOU

YOU FELT IT TOO,  
DIDN'T YOU? IN THERE THAT  
UP UNTIL NOW WE'VE BEEN  
PROTECTED, COCCOONED  
IN A BUBBLE OF BLISSFUL  
IGNORANCE

BUT NOW THE WALLS  
ARE FINALLY, INEXORABLY  
CRUMBLING, AND OUT  
THERE SOMEWHERE...

ANOTHER, FAR  
BIGGER WAR'S  
LOOMING!

[END] THE END



# DECLARATIONS OF WAR

Dear Dreamwave

I have two questions:

1. In War Within: The Dark Ages #2, Hotspot says to the other Protectobots, "...how long before the Predacons want Bruticus...?" However, in GI Vol 2, we see Starscream bringing along the Combaticons in protoform state (Transformer equivalent of a fetus, right?). This means that the Combaticons were reduced to protoform state after the events in War Within—is my statement correct?  
2. In the last issue of GI Vol. 1, we see an Autobot ship on the seabed of the Arcutic Ocean...when will we find out what that ship's all about?

Anyhow, great work on all fronts of the TF universe!

Warm regards,

Hafiz



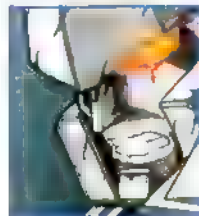
1. As correct as anything can possibly be coming from an ignorant fleshling. Perhaps that one-eyed weakling, Shockwave, found them too difficult to control in my absence from Cybertron.  
2. ?

I love what you did with the Transformers series...I would like to know if the War Within story is the same timeline before the Transformers came to Earth. Did they leave Cybertron the way they look in the War Within series, and then get reformatted to look like Earth vehicles, weapons, and aircraft? Will we be seeing Galvatron any time soon?

Mr. Melvin A. Victor

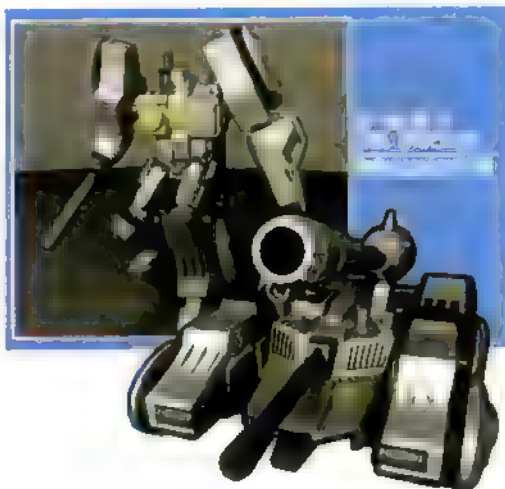
**Do you flesh creatures understand anything? War Within is basically the pre-story for the GI tales...as for details of the Transformers' departure from Cybertron and early days on Earth, those tales will**

**soon be told by the putrid, fleshy duo of Mick and Patyk. Although they'd better learn from past mistakes and not mistreat me in their stories...Megatron does not enjoy being shot in the face and left to drift aimlessly through space.**



Dear DW,

Thanks so much, and great job with all of the Transformers comics! I grew up collecting the Transformers toys, and also the GI Joe toys, so seeing this brings back such great memories for me. The books are real exciting, just wanted to commend the great artwork that DW seems to be completely dedicated to producing, and which is the most important aspect to me in my choosing to follow a storyline or series. Being a hardcore fan, however, I do have

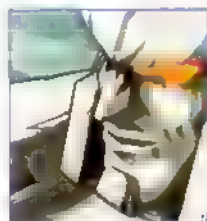


some gripes that I wanted to pass on to you:

In War Within: The Dark Ages, I think that there is a rawness to Dreamwave's art that I like, but at times he seems to lose that touch, and the art gets a bit sloppy at times. Issue #2, for example, is drawn great in my opinion, and has a certain style that is raw and unique. But I would also like the artists to stick to what is relevant and unique about the characters, especially after the publishing of the More than Meets the Eye books. For example, Skyfire uses a double-barreled rifle as a robot, but he doesn't have it in Issue #5 as he's battling Mindwipe, Bugly, and the other guy. When I was a kid, the most intriguing thing about Transformers was that each character was unique in his own way, down to his personality, abilities, and weapons also.

Anyways, all in all, DW has gotten me back into collecting comics, and I've rediscovered many titles that I used to love back in the day. Please don't lose that passion and dedication to producing great works of art, and powerful storylines that exhibit great action, heroism and morale. Thanks again, DW!

Frank Kim



I'm sure these useless bags of flesh appreciate your continued support.

And with that, I will return to crushing your pathetic little world beneath my heel. See you in 30!

## -MEGATRON

MEGATRON  
Decepticon Commander



TRANSFORMERS.COM



## RIDE THE SUMMER HEATWAVE!

The **TRANSFORMERS SUMMER SPECIAL**, a new TF tradition! This May Dreamwave cranks up the heat with this super sized one shot featuring not one—but four! of the coolest incarnations from the timeless **TRANSFORMERS** franchise. Brought to you by a veritable who's who of **TRANSFORMERS** talent the **TRANSFORMERS SUMMER SPECIAL** delivers the first-ever DW takes some classic TF properties

### BEAST WARS

The **TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE** tag team of **Brad Mick** and **Don Figueroa** spearhead Dreamwave's first look at one of the most popular **TRANSFORMERS** properties ever. "**BEAST WARS** is probably the most focused incarnation of any of the various **TRANSFORMERS** mythologies," says Mick. "The cartoon and the toys were a **TRANSFORMERS** tour-de-force that really helped bring the franchise back to the forefront of pop culture. Honestly, if it wasn't for **BEAST WARS**, I don't think the entire **TRANSFORMERS** franchise would have enjoyed the comeback that it did."

### ROBOTS IN DISGUISE

TF info-guru **Adam Patyk** (**MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK**) is joined by newcomer **Rob Ruffolo** to tackle this unique TF continuity. Says Patyk of the property: "**RID** will follow the principles **Brad Mick** and established for **GENERATION ONE** and **MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE**. Taking all the good stuff and turning it up a notch, downplaying the goofier things that didn't quite work and really thinking out a consistent framework for the continuity."

### TRANSFORMERS ENERGON

Penciler **James Raux** (**TRANSFORMERS ARMADA**) works his unique magic on the latest generation of **TRANSFORMERS**, teaming for the first time with writer **Simon Furman** (**TRANSFORMERS ENERGON: WAR WITHIN**).

### TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE

**Pat Lee** (**TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE** vol. 1 & 2) makes a brief return to the original robots in disguise, in this self-contained story written by his **TRANSFORMERS GENERATION ONE** Vol. 2 partner **Brad Mick**!

Also inside this one-shot special, fans will learn more about how they will be able to vote on which as-yet-untouched TF property (**BEAST WARS** or **ROBOTS IN DISGUISE**) Dreamwave will tackle in the next big **TRANSFORMERS** comic series! This May the summer heat is definitely turning up!



## APRIL ESSENTIALS:



## FROM THE DESK OF MEGATRON

### TITLE

### BASE OF OPERATIONS

### CURRENT PROJECTS

### FAVORITE SAYINGS

### OPTIMUS OR RODIMUS?

Right now I am sitting amidst a herd of you pathetic flesh creatures at a Transformers convention. The room is filled with milling humans, plastic representations of our robotic forms, and then even more putrid fleshlings. How the very sight of you sickens me. I would crush you all without a moment's hesitation. Nothing could possibly give me more pleasure than to feel the dripping, pulpy contents of your craniums between my fingers as I smashed each and every one of you putty--

--Certainly, I'll sign that for you. Oh, really? Glad you enjoyed it. You'll be pleased to see that this month's comics feature my triumphant return in all the Transformers titles. Yes, I hate **Brad Mick** as well—I mean, that carbon-based hack killed me! Can you believe the audacity? Well, at least he had enough sense in that bony brain-casing to bring me back. Now, begone before I blast you into oblivion!

Where was I? Ah, yes--crushing you filthy animals into paste...er, who should I make that out to? "A really big fan"? Absolutely.

You disgust me

# -MEGATRON

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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK

# TRANSFORMERS

## ARMADA

# #3

secrets of  
**UNICRON!**  
(nuff said)

CONNECT ALL 3 COVERS!



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WHAT  
DARK SECRET  
LIES BENEATH  
THE EARTH?

THE **TRANSFORMERS** GENERATION ONE #5  
MAY

MORE THAN  
MEETS  
THE EYE!

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# TRANSFORMERS ENERGON<sup>TM</sup><sub>23</sub>

SIMON FURMAN • JOE NG

his  
SECRETS  
OUT!

with  
KICKER  
ever  
be safe  
AGAIN?



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# TRANSFORMERS

BRAND

THE  
ULTIMATE  
CONFLICT  
BEGINS  
MAY 11

PREPARE FOR BATTLE AT  
[ATARI.COM/TRANSFORMERS](http://ATARI.COM/TRANSFORMERS)



Fantasy Violence

PlayStation.2



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